

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-11 and 22, 23, and 25-29 were pending in the application at the time of the last Office Action. Applicant has amended claims 1, 22, and 25. Applicant has not canceled or added any claims. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 5, 7-11 and 22, 23, and 25-29 remain pending. No new matter is added.

The Office Action rejected claims 22, 23, and 25-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0093371 ("Burrows"); and claims 1, 2, 5, and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Burrows.

Statement of Common Ownership and Disqualification of Reference Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

When the present application was filed on February 27, 2004, it was subject to assignment to Microsoft Corporation. The inventors were employees of that corporation, and had an obligation to assign their inventions to their employer. The inventors actually executed assignments on June 4, 2004, and July 21, 2004. The Burrows reference was assigned to the same assignee some fifteen months earlier, on November 8, 2002. (See Exhibit A.) Because Burrows is only applicable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and was commonly assigned at the time the present application was filed, it cannot be applied under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). See 35 U.S.C. § 103(c). Thus, claims 1, 2, 5, 7-11 are allowable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Without conceding the merits of the rejections and only to advance prosecution, applicant has amended claims 22 and 25 to now recite "the ticketing entity receives an end code of a sequence of codes and determines whether the ticket includes a code from which the end code can be derived." According to the Office Action, Burrows neither teaches nor suggests this feature. (See page 10 of Office Action.) Accordingly, applicant believes that the rejections of claims 22 and 25-29 are now moot. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

Conclusion

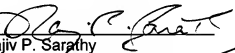
Applicant does not concede any rejection not specifically responded to above and reserves their rights to do so in the future. The dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons the claims on which they depend are allowable.

Based on these amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests early allowance of this application. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-6478.

Please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 418268004US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: September 24, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Exhibit A – Evidence of common ownership